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WEDNESDAY
MAY 12, 1954

Nothing happened in the Council this morning except in committees, so Bill, Bob and myself drove over to Baden Baden, about forty miles away, to have a look at the famous watering place. It is a sort of Victorian dream, most of the architecture being of that period. Fine lawns, gardens and shops. We lunched there, then returned to Strasbourg to hear Monnet make an excellent statement on the operations of the High Authority for the last year.

Afterwards, Van der Goes van Naters and Gerstenmaier, President of the German Bundestag Foreign Affairs Committee, had a long talk with me about the Saar agreement. We covered familiar ground. I expressed the hope that Hallstein, at his meeting with Maurice Schumann Thursday or Friday, would try to reduce the differences to as small a number as possible, and that the Chancellor would get in touch with Mr. Bidault and ascertain whether Bidault and himself could not meet on the 17th to discuss the matter thoroughly.

Afterwards I had a long talk with Guy Mollet, who feels he has his Socialist Party conference in good shape. He is gratified also over the prospects of the election next Sunday in his own Pas-de-Calais district, where he is trying to elect a Socialist to fill the seat now occupied by a Communist. He says in the first round of the election, which took place last Sunday, the Communist Party had expended 100,000,000 francs on posters, automobiles, and activities of every nature. In spite of this, his candidate did well and, in the run-off, will be supported by all the other non-Communist parties. This, Mollet estimates, will be a great test of his own leadership. He has called his party conference for the 29th and 30th of this month, and expects to be able to impose a vote of discipline which will oblige all Socialist deputies, with the exception of those who may decide to leave the party, to vote for EDC ratification. He believes he will not lose more than ten or twelve deputies in the course of this proceeding.

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News arrived from Paris this afternoon of Laniel having decided to pose a vote of confidence on Indo-China. This will be taken on Thursday afternoon.

Tonight I had a little dinner for the members of our delegation at the Maison des Tanneurs where, owing to my ailment, I had to restrict myself to the comparative austerity of steak, asparagus and potatoes, with [redacted] beaujolais to set me up.

Afterwards we went to a horrifying movie, forbidden to anyone under sixteen, called "L'Homme au Masque de Cire". It had to do with the wicked activities of a sculptor who had a taste for murdering people, then encasing them in wax and displaying them in a museum. It was touch and go as to whether the heroine would survive, but she was saved just in time from a bath of hot wax which would have transformed her into the likeness of Marie Antoinette.

Took the night train back from Strasbourg to Paris.

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THURSDAY
MAY 13, 1954

Arrived in Paris at 8:15. I found Henri Samuel had been on the same train. He goes to Strasbourg often, where he has decorated a sumptuous house for one of the local industrialists, a Monsieur Alexandre.

Bob Thayer came to see me. He had been offered the job of Minister to Libya but at the same time an opportunity to work with OCB, which is the top coordinating board in Washington. He thinks he will choose the latter.

I gave a talk on European integration to the National War College students this morning in the movie theater downstairs. It was a large audience of colonels and naval captains up.

E. came down for lunch with me in the canteen.

This afternoon I saw Irving Rossi. He has again had marvelous good fortune in buying inventions in Germany and now has possession of a process for drilling minuscular holes in metals by an electronic device, out of which he may make millions.

We went to dine tonight with the Cabrols, who were entertaining the Comte and Comtesse de Paris. I sat next to Madame. She is an absolutely charming woman, [redacted] intelligent, pretty and gay. They are both in their early forties and have eleven children. He keeps plugging away with frequent trips around France and maintains an office from which pamphlets flow, but I cannot believe he seriously entertains the hope of a restoration of the monarchy in this country.

Tonight the Laniel Government scraped through on the Indo-China confidence vote by a margin of two.

Livie Merchant telephoned me at midnight to say the Secretary wanted me to come home on consultation and be there on Sunday for a stay of about a week.

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